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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

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December 10, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp
Office of the Chief of Engineers
2600 Army Pentagon
Room 2D221A
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Oberstar, Chairman Visclosky, and Lt. General
Antwerp:

As the House Leadership and the Appropriations Committee continues to work on a second economic stimulus package, I urge you to prioritize construction funding provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of the new shipping lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, as authorized in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

President-elect Obama has emphasized that the second economic stimulus will include "shovel ready" projects. No project meets the definition of "shovel ready" more than the replacement Soo Lock. From 1995 to 2001, \$2.7 million in investigative funds were spent on pre-construction engineering and design schematics. Upon completion, an additional \$11.9 million has been spent in construction funding for hydraulic modeling, finalizing designs, NEPA compliance, and coffer dam preparation. Now that these steps are completed, the Army Corps has no more excuses and is ready to begin full construction as soon as federal funding is appropriated.

The Army Corps has indicated that they would be capable of an accelerated schedule for construction. Providing full funding would make this the largest public works navigation project on the Great Lakes in a generation, creating nearly half a billion dollars per year in economic activity in the region. This project would also have national economic

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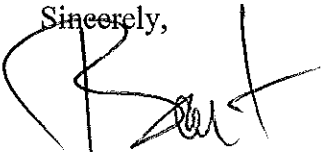
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impact for workers and manufacturers, as construction will include expenditures for raw materials, machinery, electronics, and engineering. In addition, nearly 80 percent of the nation's steelmaking capacity, an industry that supports an estimated 400,000 jobs, depends on reliable transit through the Soo Locks.

I urge the Congress to prioritize funding for the replacement lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in the proposed economic stimulus. After 13 years of federally funded studies and preparation, there is no excuse for not building the new Soo Lock as Congress has mandated in WRDA that the Army Corps "shall" build the new lock. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ernesto Falcon with my staff at 202-225-4735.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bart Stupak', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress
BTS/cof